

SCUBA team which at the time had the most complete fire and rescue operations in the area. He was elected Financial Secretary in 1963 and held this position for nine years until 1971. Jack advanced to fire line officer when he was elected to be Battalion Chief in 1976 and 1977. He became Fire Chief in 1981. Jack has held the position of Fire Chief of the Harmonville Fire Company longer than any other person in the history of the fire company.

Jack has been involved in his community as a member of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, the Plymouth Township Relief Association, and numerous other civic activities. He has selflessly given his time and energy to projects such as the building of a substation in Plymouth Valley. In addition, Jack played a crucial role in obtaining a rescue helicopter for Montgomery County.

I am pleased and honored to recognize Jack Phipps on his great career of service. His dedication to his community has been truly outstanding.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER PAUL
LASZCZYNSKI

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to call to your attention the life of an American hero, Officer Paul Laszczynski of the Port Authority Police Department. Officer Laszczynski of Paramus, New Jersey, was killed in the Line of Duty while heroically responding to the attack on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

September 11, 2001 has emblazoned so many unforgettable images in our minds. Perhaps none is more vivid, however, than that of courageous men and women in uniform working so valiantly to save the lives of others. It is therefore only fitting that Officer Laszczynski be honored, in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth.

A sixteen-year veteran of the Port Authority Police Department and member of the Port Authority's Emergency Services Unit, Officer Laszczynski was no stranger to emergency response. Having repelled down elevator shafts, climbed the top cables of the George Washington Bridge, and rescued people from burning buildings throughout his distinguished career, Paul Laszczynski once again placed the lives of others ahead of his own on September 11th.

Trained in hazardous materials response, Officer Laszczynski was a member of the PAPD's Chemical Identification Response Team. Always one to take on additional tasks, Officer Laszczynski also served as the PATH Command's Fitness Coordinator, a Police Academy Pistol Range Instructor, and as a member of the Honor Guard.

During the bombing of the World Trade Center on February 26, 1993, Officer Laszczynski helped rescue a handicapped man by carrying him to safety from the 72nd floor. His efforts that day earned him two distinguished citations: The Meritorious Citation for Exemplary Police Actions and the Individual Valor Award.

Paul Laszczynski's dedication to serving others and the community at large did not stop

with his service at the PAPD. He was a proud member of a motorcycle club made up of fellow officers that organizes charity rides for sick children and meets other community needs.

He has touched countless lives for the better, and we are all better for having him as part of our American family.

On Tuesday, September 11th that family was attacked in a way we had only seen in our very worst nightmares. The actions carried out on the people of this nation were unspeakable acts of war, targeting the very foundation of what makes us Americans. That day we all witnessed the very worst of mankind.

What the perpetrators of these acts did was not realize the unwavering commitment to liberty and humankind felt by Paul Laszczynski and his fellow heroes. The bravery and love he exhibited in the face of terror make him an example for us all.

We will honor Officer Paul Laszczynski by trying to live our lives as he lived his. We will honor Paul by loving his family as he did, and continuing his work to make our community a better place.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Paul's family and friends, myself, and a truly grateful nation in honoring the life of a great American, Port Authority Police Officer Paul Laszczynski.

HONORING LYLE EVERINGHAM AS
A GREAT LIVING CINCINNATIAN

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a friend and constituent, Lyle Everingham, who will be honored by the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce on February 20 as a Great Living Cincinnati. The recipients of this prestigious award are selected on the basis of special achievement in the world of work, but the criteria also includes an awareness of the needs of others; civic service; leadership; and distinctive accomplishments.

Lyle Everingham's success is a classic American story of "working your way to the top." Fresh from a tour of duty with the U.S. Army in the South Pacific, twenty-one year old Lyle applied for a temporary position stocking shelves at a Kroger store in Adrian, Michigan. He thought it would be a nice summer job until school started that fall. Instead, he stayed on with the company, and decades later, oversaw the Kroger Company's entire operation—retiring as Chairman of the Board in 1991. Along the way, he assumed greater responsibility—as store manager, district manager, general district manager and manager of operations. He served as manager of merchandising in the company's Toledo Division, and it was there that he sharpened his administrative skills. Under Lyle's leadership, Kroger became one of the nation's largest food chains and retained its ownership, fending off a hostile takeover attempt by two out-of-town investors. He consistently championed innovative ideas to improve the customer's experience—such as incorporating bank branches right into the Kroger store.

Kroger is truly all in the family for the Everinghams. Lyle's brother, Bob, four sisters,

mother and wife Rlene have all worked for Kroger. Rlene and Lyle have three children and six grandchildren.

Lyle's volunteer activities are many. He led the first capital campaign for Hospice of Cincinnati and the second capital campaign for St. Rita's School for the Deaf. He served on the Smale Infrastructure Commission, the Buenger Education Commission, and was active in United Way. A past president of the Commercial Club and a past co-chair of the Cincinnati Business Committee, Lyle also served as a trustee of the University of Cincinnati and on the board of Bethesda, Inc.

All of us in the Cincinnati area salute Lyle Everingham as he is recognized as a Great Living Cincinnati.

HONORING THE AMERICAN HERITAGE
ACADEMY, CHEROKEE
COUNTY, GEORGIA

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in 1999, a private school opened its doors to the north Georgia community in Cherokee County. Since its inception the American Heritage Academy has become an integral component of Georgia's education system, becoming a home to advanced and gifted students, motivating new goals, and challenging students to entertain a wide range of various ideas.

The school operates on a college prep format and combines a versatile range of racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds; giving its students a diversified look at the world from the start. At the heart of the American Heritage curriculum lies a balanced combination of academic development, community service, and individual creativity. Each class holds a maximum of 15 students, ensuring personal attention and the opportunity for every student's voice to be heard. For now, the school operates on a preschool through middle school scale, but soon it will unveil its newest extension. Students will be able to begin their formative school years at American Heritage, and continue on through high school, right up until they graduate and depart for the next phase of their education.

American Heritage has become a flagship school to Cherokee County. Its presence has initiated a partnership between public and private schools that provides an important choice to parents. The school has grown not only in numbers, but also in reputation, in just a short while; it will no doubt continue to do so in the future.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. VIRGINIA
STRICKLAND ROGERS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor a native of Como, Mississippi who celebrates her centennial birthday today. In 1902, the year Mrs. Rogers was born, Theodore Roosevelt was our nation's twenty-sixth President. Throughout his